

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A system for managing a quantity of inventory of parts constituting a product, in which distribution of the parts, including shipment by a part supplier, delivery to an orderer of the parts to be used in manufacturing the product, is divided into a plurality of stages in time-sequence, comprising:

a. part order quantity computing means for computing a part order quantity to be directed to the part supplier, by subtracting a subject-to-subtraction quantity of inventory, from a required quantity of the parts computed based on a production schedule;

b. first inventory quantity computing means for inputting incoming quantity information and outgoing quantity information of the ~~orderer of the parts~~ part supplier and for computing a tentative quantity of inventory of the parts at one of the stages from a difference between the incoming quantity information and the outgoing information;

c. second inventory quantity computing means for inputting the incoming quantity information and the outgoing quantity information of the orderer of the parts and for computing actual quantities of inventory of the parts at the other stages from the difference between the incoming quantity information and the outgoing information;

d. inventory information sending means for sending information on the tentative quantity of inventory of the parts at the one of the stages and the actual quantities of inventory of the parts at the other stages via transmitting means; and

e. inventory managing means for consolidating the sent inventory information to be centralized such that the inventory information is managed at a lump;

wherein the inventory managing means outputs the actual quantity of inventory of the parts computed by the second inventory quantity computing means to the part order quantity computing means as the subject-to-subtraction quantity of inventory in computing the part order quantity.